

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Pennsylvania raised 35 million bushels of corn this year, averaging 32 bushels per acre.

—Egyptian cotton raised near Galveston, Texas, is over ten feet tall, has branches over seven feet long, and will average 2000 lbs. per acre of seed cotton. It is like the Sea Island—very firm, long, and strong of more, but has a black seed.

—The following is pronounced an infallible cure for hog cholera: Give the animal a dose of spirits of turpentine, (on corn, or otherwise,) and bathe the back, from ears to tail, with kerosene oil. Three applications usually suffice—says Mrs. Sarah Bentley of Buena Vista, Texas.

—The tomato in Southern California is not only perennial, but an unsurpassed pole-climber. A resident of Los Angeles, writing to the *American Agriculturist* in February last, speaks of gathering ripe tomatoes from the top of a twenty-foot ladder; the vine being trellised against the gable end of the house.

—A good way of ridding garden vines and orchard trees, of insects, caterpillars, etc., is to have a small glass syringe such as physicians use, and throw a spray of kerosene oil among the nests of the vermin or upon the insect where seen. One quart of kerosene deftly handled might rid your orchard without hurting the trees in the least.

—Squire Hood writes from South Mecklenburg, that "crops are making a fine return; and most farmer's sowing a large crop of wheat and oats. Times are certainly looking better for farmers. Col. Polk's crop reports are a good thing. They cheer up the farmer by showing what is doing in other parts. Send me the *FARMER & MECHANIC*—I hear much mention of it."

—Suicides by scores are reported from every part of the land; from every class of society. The young bride, the wealthy banker, the successful artist, the apparently happy mother—such as these, as well as the poor, the afflicted, and partially demented, are taking their own lives with awful frequency. Casual readers do not notice the prevalence of the epidemic so strikingly as does the editor who daily glances over papers from every section.

—We have been asked what amount of fertilizer (bone or phosphate) should be used per acre for wheat. Of course, to answer such a question we must know the quality of the soil, former crop, strength of fertilizer, &c. If the land be in good condition, well worked, any quantity from 250 to 400 pounds per acre, of a really good fertilizer, will bring excellent returns. If the ground be poor, and the fertilizer cheap, it will not be amiss to apply double these quantities. Mr. Jones, the Ag. Commissioner, of Georgia, gives the following directions for wheat:

Select, if possible, high, rolling land, with clay subsoil, not too rich, and, after thorough preparation of the soil by deep plowing and harrowing, sow from 15th October to 1st December, according to latitude—using, if convenient, the following compost, which will answer also for oats:

Cotton seed (green) 25 bush, or 750 lbs.  
Stable manure, ..... 650 "  
Superphosphate, ..... 500 "  
Sulphate ammonia, ..... 100 "  
Muriate of potash, ..... 100 "

Making a ton of, ..... 2000 lbs.  
ON FINE LAND.  
Cotton seed (green) 25 bush, or 750 lbs.  
Stable manure, ..... 500 "  
Superphosphate, ..... 500 "  
Sulphate ammonia, ..... 100 "  
Muriate of potash, ..... 100 "

After the land has been thoroughly broken apply 400 pounds of the compost per acre, and harrow or plow in lightly with the grain. For winter crops the fertilizers should be applied near the surface, and should contain a large per cent. of ammonia than those used on summer crops.

—In the Godwyn club, reported by Mr. Gregory last week, Mr. Davis thought it did not make much difference about the selection of seed grain. "The finest crop I ever made was sown with refuse wheat I could not sell." We cannot let this pass without suggesting that in the special case the result was accident. All the best farmers of the country, north and west, carefully select both corn and wheat. Prof. Hallett, of England, has gone farther, and demonstrated that there are in each head of wheat, several grains which far surpass the others in vitality and reproducing power. In experimenting he took two heads of wheat, containing together 87 grains. Each grain was planted singly. One grain produced ten heads, containing 688 grains, whereas all the other 86 grains produced only 594 grains altogether. To give better effect, let us re-state—

One grain produced—688 grains.  
86 grains produced—598.

So that the single grain produced 90 grains more than the product of all the other 86 grains of the same head! Mr. H. planted the 688 grains next

year, and reaped enough seed to sow a seven acre field, the third year; though he plants much thinner than Americans usually do. Suppose some of our farmers make a similar experiment.

**SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**—At the last session of the National Grange the executive committee, of which D. Wyatt Aiken (M. C. from S. C.) is chairman, was directed to memorialize Congress, asking it to enlarge the official sphere of the Commissioner of Agriculture, so as to entitle him to the voice, vote, rank and pay of a cabinet officer. The petition has been printed and laid on the Congressional desks. It is a rather tame affair, beginning as follows: "Whereas, at least half the population of this government is more or less interested in agricultural pursuits; and whereas agriculture should be represented in the Presidential Cabinet as a partial imposition of the burdens of a wise and just government is to be secured—therefore, &c., &c. Better "secure" a little grammatical and literary knowledge before undertaking so big a job.

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J. O. JAMES, of Columbus county.  
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Office, second floor of Briggs' Building, Raleigh, N. C.

## List of Correspondents of the Board of Agriculture.

NOTE:—The regular correspondents of the department are requested to act as agents for the *FARMER AND MECHANIC*, which will hereafter be the official organ of the Department. They are specially requested to extend the circulation of the paper in their counties as far as possible.

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Warren—W. H. Cheek.  
Washington—T. J. Norman, Arthur Collins, Wm. R. J. McBride.  
Watauga—A. J. McBride.  
Wayne—J. E. Gadsby, T. B. Hyman.  
Wilkes—L. Harrel, J. T. Finley.  
Wilson—R. W. King, Frank W. Barnes.  
Yadkin—Dr. T. Long, H. C. Wilson.  
Yancey—N. M. Wilson, J. R. Noell.

## Specimen Letter From a Northern Man.

The Commissioner of Agriculture is constantly receiving letters from all parts of the North, of which the following is a fair specimen. Hundreds of them are from good, substantial, industrious men, who are really desirous of coming to our State with the view of making it their future and permanent home. These are the kind of citizens we need and want. We want none that are idle and worthless—we cannot afford to invite those who have no money or character. We have no room for such. Good men wish to come, and will come, if they can buy lands and buy them at fair prices, and one of the most important branches of the work of the Department is to induce our people to sell portions of their lands and to induce good men to come and buy them. Read the following extract, and if you have land to sell, send to the Commissioner and procure blanks for description, and let him advertise it for you:

"In the last twelve months times have been very hard in the Eastern States, and a great many mechanics and small business men went, and are preparing to go to some other parts of the country to secure a home for their families. *Colony* is the cry. People are going out to Kansas, Michigan, Iowa, &c. Now, my opinion is that some of the Southern States would do as well, if not better, if enough land could be had cheap enough to establish a good many settlements. I would be under obligations to you if you would answer the following questions, viz.: At what price could land be bought suitable for vine culture and general farming? Will there be tracts of land large enough (30,000 acres) to form a colony? How is the climate in regard to fever or other diseases? What is your experience in this matter? What impression does the climate and country make on people who have been living in the North and then moved to the South? Would there be any ill-feeling among the Southern people against Northern emigrants? What are the expenses of ordinary living? What is the price of butter, eggs, wheat, potatoes, &c.? At what rate could labor be had (the price of an average farm hand)? Is there any support to be expected from the State for the purpose of building schools?"

## Meherrin Valley Railroad.

We noticed to-day at the Petersburg depot a beautiful locomotive and train of cars which have just been built at the shops of Messrs. W. E. Tanner & Co., for use on the Meherrin Valley railroad, a narrow-gauge railway intersecting the Petersburg and Weldon road near the junction of the Gaston branch. This narrow-gauge road, called the "Meherrin Valley," extends about ten miles into Greensville county and opens up large bodies of some of the finest white oak timber in the State. It also taps one of the most fertile and productive sections of Virginia, and it is expected that it will do quite a business hauling cotton and other produce, besides bringing out vast quantities of lumber, for which special purpose it was built. The locomotive is named the A. L. Shepherd, after one of our commission merchants, though whose engine and enterprise, together with M. T. Dill, representing Northern capital, the road has been built. Major H. A. Whiting, a thoroughly competent and wise engineer in charge of the work. The whole work is one of individual enterprise, and we wish it great success.—*Richmond (Va.) State*.

We call special attention to the above notice clipped from the *Richmond State*, of the 13th inst. These narrow gauge railways must come into general use as the tracts of timbered lands are purchased at more remote points from the main lines of communication, and it is gratifying to know that the locomotives and cars for operating the same can be purchased in the South. Messrs. Wm. E. Tanner & Co., the builders of the machinery above referred to, are also manufacturing engines for running saw mills, cotton gins, &c., of superior quality.

## The Increase of Wheat Production in North Carolina and Virginia.

To the Editor of *The Farmer and Mechanic*:  
The writer has been rejoiced to observe this fall a great disposition to extend the area of wheat production, both in North Carolina and Virginia. Mr. Commissioner Polk, fully awake to this need, has pushed the matter with his usual energy; and the *Southern Planter and Farmer*, at Richmond, has not lagged behind in the good

work. As a flour-producing point, Richmond ranks with any city anywhere. Heretofore, the four great mills there, namely, the "Galleys," "Haxall," Denlop & McChase, and Walker and Saunders, gave the bulk of their attention to the West Indian and South American trade; now, while pushing that trade to the utmost limit, they will also appear in the domestic market at all points. This will necessitate doubling the supply of wheat usually raised in our two States; and, as wheat is so much better than that gotten from the West, they are ready to take all we can bring. To enable our farmers to market their wheat to the best advantage, and at the same time furnish the millers with a steady supply, the erection of a grain elevator at Richmond is being warmly agitated, and we feel persuaded that not another year will go by before the foundation is laid for its erection. In view, then, of the results available to our people, you cannot do a better work for your friends than keep up the interest, in season and out of season, in this important matter.

As the tobacco of Virginia and North Carolina holds the highest rank in the market for excellence, so far the export trade, especially to hot countries, no wheat has proved the equal of ours. During the war, when Richmond was cut off from the outside world, California made fine headway in South America, but when the war ended, it was not long before the Richmond mills resorted to their own. There was no comparison between the flour made of California wheat and that made of ours, the latter being every way greatly superior.

Now there is no reason why your folks should not find a ready market, in the requirements of these mills, for all the wheat they can possibly spare; and with the aid the elevator will give to the business they will be assured the best price always the market will afford, and what is of not less consequence, a regular demand.

JOHN OTT, Secretary, &c.  
Richmond, Va., Nov. 16, 1877.

**LOW ON THE LIST.**—We think it likely few of our readers imagine that North Carolina stands lower than 2nd on the list of tobacco raising States. Yet the census of last year shows there are SEVEN superior to us; among which are Indiana and Ohio; the latter of which raises nearly twice as much. According to the U. S. Commissioner report there were produced in 1876, the following number of pounds:—

Kentucky, ..... 128,000,000  
Virginia, ..... 49,300,000  
Missouri, ..... 43,315,000  
Tennessee, ..... 32,200,000  
Ohio, ..... 28,500,000  
Maryland, ..... 21,500,000  
Indiana, ..... 16,500,000  
North Carolina, ..... 16,225,000  
Pennsylvania, ..... 13,200,000  
Illinois, ..... 11,000,000

Other States smaller amounts; tho' little Connecticut raises nearly half as much as North Carolina. And which State yields the lowest average per acre?—North Carolina. Her 550 lbs. contrasts strongly with 1,640 lbs. per acre in Massachusetts, and 1,380 lbs. in Pennsylvania. But it beautifully illustrates the profit of skilled culture. Pennsylvania, for instance, on 9,565 acres raises nearly as much as North Carolina on 29,500 acres; and Indiana on 22,000 acres actually beats us.

We think, however, the Commissioners report does not do justice to our State. There are tens of thousands of pounds used by the producer and not reported. All over Western North Carolina one finds the highland farmers using dried "natural leaf," grown in patches of "new-grounds" for home consumption.

## Public Dead-Heads.

The following persons have taken short contracts on our works of Internal Improvement.

Onslow—Henry Thompson, col. 2 years for larceny.  
Wilson—Jas Higgins, Thos Boykin, both negroes, each 3 years, for larceny; L. T. Jones, col. 2 yrs; Stephen Ricks, col. 2 yrs, and Jas Barnes, col. 3 yrs—all for stealing; Henry Knight, white, 3 years for forgery.  
Rockingham—Jas Wright, 1 yr, for stealing.

Watauga—Caroline Jones, 1 year; Henry Mills, G. and Ed Tillman, and Jones Baskerville, each 2 years, all for larceny.

Sheriff Joseph Cobb, of Edgecombe brought up George Johnson, colored, convicted of larceny, and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment.  
Sheriff Z. F. Long of Rockingham, came down with the following delegation from his county Sam. Johnson, larceny, 2 years; Lamb. Patterson, manslaughter, 6 years; William Stanfill, larceny, 2 years. All the above were brought to the well known Aiken Carter, white, whose death sentence was lately commuted to imprisonment for life. He is a man of 65 years of age, and so the life sentence will not be a lengthy one, probably. He was condemned for the murder of a man by the name of Lilly, in 1855.

The diphtheria is again prevailing in Newbern. Several children have died. A new post office has been established in Mecklenburg county, called "Hibernia." Walter S. Turner post master.

The tournament at Reidsville last week netted \$24 after paying all expenses, which amount was turned over to the building committee of the M. E. Church of that place to help in the erection of their new house of worship.

The young man, High, who tried to kill his father and mother in Columbus county last week, was pursued and captured in Greenville, S. C., a requisition obtained from Gov. Vance, then in Columbia, and he was returned and lodged in Whiteville jail.

## Wake County News.

We regret to learn that Mr. A. J. Banks, who was accidentally shot while gunning with his nephew, has died at his home in Panther Branch township.

Mr. Nicholas Allen's gin house and all its contents, six miles from town, St. Mary's precinct, was burned last week. Loss about \$1000, for lack of insurance. Those gin house fires are frightfully common and must rob many a farmer of his years labor. Mr. A. will soon have another gin at work.

Some young men from town have been badly at a "corn-shucking" one night last week.

Petty robberies of hen roosts, and pig-pens show that the "light-fingered" gentry, of dark complexion, are operating "beath the light of the moon."

A man named Williams made improper proposals to Wake Thompson's sister, Thompson, with Allen and Step Rogers, met William's and assaulted him for the insult. In the fracas which ensued Williams' ear was bitten off by Thompson. The case was tried before Judge Strong on Saturday and the defendants acquitted.

## N. C. News in a Nutshell.

Chavers and Jacobs, charged with the murder of Everett, in Rockingham, had their trial moved to Stanley, on the plea of damaging statements in the local press and by the preachers. This method of gaining half a year, and getting off into a stange community is quite common; and perhaps diphtheria is still troublesome in Wilmington, Harnett county, and other localities. A large force is at work clearing out the French brand in Transylvania and Henderson counties. A dozen or more miles are now ready for a boat drawing 3 feet of water, which is enough for a good size steam boat. Gen. Vance is trying to get a new mail route from Burnsville to Green Mountain. Young Scott, of Tenn., who passed a \$50 note on an Asheville firm has been sentenced to six months in jail and \$500 fine.

John F. Kuffie, of Columbus, was found dead, of apoplexy. Mr. Birmingham tells the *Anson Herald* he made 76 bushels of corn on 1 1/2 acres of land. In the case of Ruff Young charged with rape of Mrs. Pennington, tried at Rowan court, Young was acquitted on the ground of consent by the woman. Mecklenburg court is in session.

## Concerning Cats.

A correspondent of the *Wadesboro Herald* tells of a Mr. Watt Rat-liff, whose cat is famous for catching wild as well as domestic game. Recently Tom fell into an old well and was given up for lost. But sixteen days after the catastrophe his mistress heard his familiar mew, and discovered him, seated on the end of a log, in the well, which was 50 feet deep. A basket was lowered by a rope, while Tom spit on his hands preparatory to climbing out. Seeing the basket, however, he stepped in and was hauled to sunlight and safety again. The eloquent gratitude of the rescued animal's curled tail was delightful to see. Simultaneously with this cat-catch came another from Tuf-tomboro, New Hampshire, whence Mr. J. L. Hersey writes of a cat which was wont to accompany him on the hunt just like a tree-dog. "As soon as she saw me take down my gun"—says Mr. H.—"she would run for the door and new; when the door was opened she would run a short distance, then come back, rub against me, then dash off for the woods, keeping just so far in advance until she heard a squirrel chitter or a partridge fly up; then she would fall back behind me; when I passed she would stop also; and when she saw me raise the gun to fire, she was ready to run and pick up the game. Striped squirrels she would chase up the trees, and they would be so frightened that she seldom failed of bringing them down. Last summer she had a kitten, half-grown; she was very fond of him; but when I started with the gun she left him and ran ahead, and arriving at the wood she soon treed a squirrel. I shot it. It was curious to note her movements. She dashed in among a thick clump of brakes and carefully lurched it up. Then went on a bee line for the house, and soon appeared with the kitten following her. She led him directly to where she had had the game. She used to bother me when I wanted to go off on a long tour; she was determined to go also, and I had to shut her up; and when let out she would go all round trying to find me."

I could take her and catch almost any squirrel that we found on the wall or fence. She would take one side and I the other, and with a stick I would drive the squirrel through on her side, and she would nab him. She was not like some cats, afraid of the water, but would wade and swim anywhere for frogs, and would lug them to her kitchen by the wholesome. She was the most knowing cat that I ever saw. Let her be out anywhere near the buildings when the trumpet was blown, she would run for the house as though her life depended on haste."

We give the foregoing by way of variety; diversifying the common stories of educated horses, dogs and hogs.  
Roanoke News: John Wheeler had his arm badly torn in a cotton gin at Jackson Wednesday. Amputation was necessary.  
Blue Ridge Blade: Two convicts were shot last Thursday, by Finley McDowell, one of the guard, while attempting to make their escape. They are not expected to live.

## How Custer Died.

From the interview between Sitting Bull and the New York Herald correspondent.

Correspondent:—Did you hear from your people how he died? Did he die on horseback?

S. B.—No. None of them died on horseback.

All were dismounted?

Yes.

And Custer, the Long Hair?

Well, I have understood that there were a great many brave men in that fight, and that from time to time, while I was going on, they were shot down like pigs. They could not help themselves. They were by one the officers fell. I believe the Long Hair rode across once from this place down here (meaning the place where Tom Custer's and Smith's companies were killed) to this place up here, indicating the spot on the map where Custer fell, but I am not sure about this. Any way it was said that up there where the last fight took place, where the last stand was made, the Long Hair stood like a sheaf of corn with all the ears fallen around him.

Not wounded?

No.

How many stood by him?

A few.

When did he fall?

He killed a man when he fell. He laughed.

You mean he cried out?

No, he laughed, he had fired his last shot.

From a carbine?

No, a pistol.

Did he stand up after he first fell?

He rose up on his hands and tried another shot, but his pistol would not go off.

Was any one else standing up when he fell down?

"One man was kneeling; that was all. But he died before the Long Hair. All this was far up on the bluffs, far away from the Sioux encampments. I did not see it. It is told to me. But it is true."

The Long Hair was not scalped?

No. My people did not want his scalp.

Why?

I have said he was a great chief.

## FALL OF KARS.

## A Great Russian Success.

A special dispatch to the *Daily News*, dated Yvan Kalesh, Sunday evening, says: The fortress and city of Kars, with three hundred cannon, stores, ammunition, cash, etc., fell into Russian hands to-day. The Turks lost 5,000 killed and wounded and 10,000 prisoners and many flags. Russian loss about 2,700. The Russian soldiers made but trilling booty, and spared peaceful citizens, women and children. General Loris Melikoff directed the attack, and the day, Grand Duke Michael was present also. The former entered the city at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

## THE WEDDING BELL.

In Sampson, Nov. 8th, Mr. W. K. Pigford, President of the County Agricultural Society, and Miss Jennie Beaman, daughter of Colonel Beaman, of Clinton.

In Charlotte, Nov. 14, by Rev. Dr. Miller, Rev. J. E. Figgarty, of South Carolina, and Miss Bettie V. McCorkle, sisters-in-law of C. Scott, Esq.

In Robeson, Nov. 7, A. Herring and Miss Georgia Hayrill.

In Nash, John T. Mathews and Miss M. C. Fort.

In Mecklenburg, by Rev. J. Douglas, Nov. 6th, B. Brown and Miss Alice Bigham.

In Raleigh, by Rev. P. N. Pinnell, W. H. Harwood, of Lenoir, and Miss Charny Mitchell.

In Yadkin, J. W. Davis and Miss M. Dozier.

In Raleigh, Nov. 15, by Rev. Dr. Prather, Mr. Hugh Campbell and Miss M. L. Cuffman.

In Morganton, Nov. 14, H. C. Morrison and Miss Ada B. McElrath.

In Mecklenburg, by Rev. J. C. Chalmers, W. A. Grier and Miss Belle Crawford.

In Gaston, on the 8th, M. L. Hullett and Miss Mary Ann Eaker.

In Chester, S. C., on the 14th, Mr. Joseph D. Means (formerly of Charlotte) and Miss Jessie Davaga, daughter of Dr. A. H. Davaga. Also, W. M. Howze and Miss Mary M. Seibert.

In Pineville, on the 7th, by Rev. G. S. Robinson, M. L. Wallis, Esq., and Mrs. Lizzie Hemmigan.

In Pineville, Mecklenburg, on the 8th, by Rev. G. S. Robinson, Mr. W. C. Culp and Miss Fannie Morris.

In Mecklenburg, by Rev. Walter W. Pharr, William B. Newell and Miss Sallie P. Newell.

## THE FUNERAL BELL.

Of diphtheria, in Bladen, Oct. 20, J. R. Bordenaux, aged 11.

In Fayetteville, Nov. 9, Miss Ella Anderson, aged 66.

Miss Washington, N. C., of paralysis, Miss Claudia Hodges, aged 19.

At Washington, Oct. 12, the infant daughter of N. Roberts.

Near Taylors, Oct. 25, Mrs. Frank D. Barile, aged 30.

In Pitt, Oct. 21, Mrs. Mary Edwards, aged 81.

Near Charlotte, on the 24, Mrs. Margaret Dixon, aged 57 years.

In Gaston, on the 7th, Miss Ellen J. Peterson, daughter of C. J. and S. H. Peterson, aged 22 years, 4 months and 1 day.

In Alexandria, on the 11th, Sue Crozier, child of W. D. and Sue R. Alexander.

At Leesville, Anson county, on the 15th, Sue, daughter of Dr. W. H. and S. A. Battle, aged 3 years.

In Company Shops, Nov. 8, Willie Ann Roberts Henry, aged 5 years.

In Wake, Nov. 11, B. Hester, aged 78 years.

In Duplin, Miss Bella C. Pigford.

In La Grange, Nov. 12, Mrs. J. C. Alberson.

In Williamston, Miss Eliza Lander, aged 32 years